

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY MAY 7, 2009

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY APRIL 22, 2009

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY APRIL 13, 2009

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2009–10 REGULAR SESSION

ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 1455

Introduced by Assembly Member Hill

February 27, 2009

~~An act to add Article 3 (commencing with Section 78040) to Chapter 1 of Part 48 of Division 7 of Title 3 of the Education Code, relating to community colleges; An act to add Section 78016.6 to the Education Code, relating to the San Mateo County Community College District.~~

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 1455, as amended, Hill. ~~Community colleges: baccalaureate degrees: pilot program. San Mateo County Community College District Baccalaureate Partnership Act.~~

Existing law establishes the California Community Colleges under the administration of the Board of Governors of the California Community Colleges. Existing law authorizes the establishment of community college districts under the administration of community college district governing boards, and authorizes these districts to provide instruction at community college campuses throughout the state.

Existing law establishes the California Community College Baccalaureate Partnership Program to encourage baccalaureate degree-granting institutions to partner with community colleges to offer baccalaureate degree programs entirely on participating community

college campuses and provides for up to 2 grants, not to exceed \$50,000 each, to collaboratives formed for this purpose.

This bill would establish the San Mateo Community College District Baccalaureate Partnership Program to encourage baccalaureate degree-granting institutions to partner with the San Mateo County Community College District to offer baccalaureate degree programs on the district's community college campuses.

~~Under existing law, the primary mission of the California Community Colleges is to offer academic and vocational instruction at the lower division level. Existing law prohibits the California Community Colleges from offering instruction beyond the 2nd year of college.~~

~~This bill would authorize the San Mateo County Community College District to establish a pilot program to offer a baccalaureate degree. The bill would, among other things, require that the baccalaureate degree program be accredited by the Western Association of Schools and Colleges.~~

~~The bill would require that the program expire 6 years after the initial offering of a baccalaureate degree unless extended by law.~~

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: no.
State-mandated local program: no.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

- 1 SECTION 1. (a) The Legislature finds and declares all of the
- 2 following:
- 3 (1) Since its adoption in 1960, the Master Plan for Higher
- 4 Education has served the state exceedingly well, allowing
- 5 California to create the largest and most distinguished higher
- 6 education system in the nation. A key component of the Master
- 7 Plan for Higher Education is the differentiation of mission and
- 8 function among the three systems of higher education in the state:
- 9 the University of California, the California State University, and
- 10 the California Community Colleges.
- 11 (2) Until recently, this differentiation of function has allowed
- 12 California to provide universal access to postsecondary education
- 13 while preserving quality.
- 14 (3) Due to current economic realities and a high unemployment
- 15 rate in the state, tens of thousands of unemployed or
- 16 underemployed Californians are entering or returning to college
- 17 to improve job skills or to train for new careers.

1 ~~(4) Because of enrollment caps imposed by the University of~~
2 ~~California and the California State University, thousands of~~
3 ~~qualified students have been denied access to a public institution~~
4 ~~of higher education where they could pursue a baccalaureate~~
5 ~~degree.~~

6 ~~(5)~~

7 (4) In the rapidly emerging “knowledge economy” of California,
8 it is more important than ever before that California have a
9 well-educated populace in order for the state to remain competitive
10 nationally and internationally. Several recent studies have
11 concluded that a college degree is now required for most of the
12 highest paying occupations and that, in many areas of the economy,
13 the baccalaureate degree is replacing the associate degree as the
14 entry level credential for 21st century jobs.

15 ~~(6)~~

16 (5) Community college students who want to transfer to public
17 four-year institutions face a number of challenges: ~~universities~~
18 ~~have instituted enrollment caps that limit the number of transfer~~
19 ~~students they will accept;~~ students are place bound and do not have
20 the time or money to travel to four-year colleges; students are
21 accepted, but do not get the financial aid packages that make
22 enrollment possible; ~~a number of four-year programs are impacted~~
23 ~~and students are denied admission or placed on a wait list;~~ each
24 four-year college or university has different entrance requirements
25 that limit student options for transfer if they are not accepted into
26 their first choice university.

27 ~~(b) Because of these factors, the State of California is hereby~~
28 ~~making an exception to the differentiation of function in~~
29 ~~baccalaureate education that assigns sole authority among the~~
30 ~~California public higher education segments to the University of~~
31 ~~California and the California State University for awarding~~
32 ~~baccalaureate degrees. This exception to the Master Plan for Higher~~
33 ~~Education recognizes the urgency of meeting critical education~~
34 ~~and workforce demand needs and the distinctive strengths and~~
35 ~~respective missions of the California Community Colleges, the~~
36 ~~California State University, and the University of California.~~

37 *(b) Because of these factors, the State of California supports*
38 *the increased use of “university centers” where the California*
39 *State University and the University of California partner with the*

1 *California Community Colleges to deliver baccalaureate degree*
2 *programs on community college campuses.*

3 *SEC. 2. Section 78016.6 is added to the Education Code, to*
4 *read:*

5 *78016.6. (a) This section shall be known and may be cited as*
6 *the San Mateo County Community College District Baccalaureate*
7 *Partnership Act. The San Mateo Community College District*
8 *Baccalaureate Partnership Program is hereby established to do*
9 *the following:*

10 *(1) To encourage baccalaureate degree-granting institutions*
11 *to partner with the San Mateo County Community College District*
12 *to offer baccalaureate degree programs that will offer instruction*
13 *entirely on the district's participating campuses.*

14 *(2) To bring opportunities to earn baccalaureate degrees to*
15 *San Mateo County, especially within areas of the county with*
16 *limited access to baccalaureate degree-granting institutions.*

17 *(b) The San Mateo County Community College District is hereby*
18 *authorized to seek collaborative partnerships with the University*
19 *of California and the California State University for purposes of*
20 *offering baccalaureate degree programs on campuses of the San*
21 *Mateo County Community College District.*

22 ~~SEC. 2. Article 3 (commencing with Section 78040) is added~~
23 ~~to Chapter 1 of Part 48 of Division 7 of Title 3 of the Education~~
24 ~~Code, to read:~~

25
26 ~~Article 3. Baccalaureate Degree Pilot Program~~

27
28 ~~78040. Notwithstanding Section 66010.4, the San Mateo~~
29 ~~County Community College District may, subject to Section 78042,~~
30 ~~establish a pilot program to offer baccalaureate degrees that meet~~
31 ~~the eligibility requirements contained in Section 78041.~~

32 ~~78041. (a) A baccalaureate degree program offered pursuant~~
33 ~~to Section 78040 shall be accredited by the Western Association~~
34 ~~of Schools and Colleges.~~

35 ~~(b) The baccalaureate degree may be offered in different fields~~
36 ~~of study subject to the following requirements:~~

37 ~~(1) The district has identified and documented unmet workforce~~
38 ~~needs in the subject area of the degree to be offered.~~

1 ~~(2) The degree program shall not, as determined by the district~~
2 ~~board, unnecessarily duplicate similar programs offered by nearby~~
3 ~~public educational institutions.~~

4 ~~(3) The district has the expertise, resources, and interest to offer~~
5 ~~a quality baccalaureate degree in the chosen field of study.~~

6 ~~(e) The district may charge a fee for courses in the baccalaureate~~
7 ~~program that is greater than that charged for courses at the associate~~
8 ~~degree level; however, the fee charged may not be greater than~~
9 ~~that charged by the California State University for similar~~
10 ~~baccalaureate programs.~~

11 ~~78043. The pilot program provided for in this article shall~~
12 ~~expire six years after the initial offering of a baccalaureate degree,~~
13 ~~unless otherwise extended by law.~~